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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1940.

FRODSHAM,
OSMOND C. KEMP, PRINTER,
1941

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RURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY
OF RUNCORN.

ANNUAL REPORT

1940.

BY

JAMES BENNETT,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. London,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

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Members of the Rural District Council of Runcorn.

Name	*Parish Representative*
Chairman—	
J. W. Crossley, Esq.	Stockton Heath.
Vice-Chairman—	
H. T. Nicholls, Esq.	Grappenhall.
J. Garner, Esq.	Alvanley.
J. Bolshaw, Esq.	Antrobus.
T. I. Fletcher, Esq.	Appleton.
G. W. A. Brown, Esq.	Appleton.
T. C. Shepherd, Esq.	Aston.
H. Walton, Esq.	Great Budworth.
G. S. Wallworth, Esq.	Daresbury.
F. A. Dutton, Esq.	Dutton.
F. Basnett, Esq.	Frodsham.
J. G. Davies, Esq.	Frodsham.
H. Helsby, Esq.	Frodsham.
L. Pollard. Esq.	Frodsham.
W. A. Howard, Esq.	Grappenhall.
W. Postons, Esq.	Grappenhall.
W. S. Looker, Esq., J.P.	Halton.
W. Fowles, Esq.	Hatton.
H. Jackson, Esq.	Helsby.
C. Wilkinson, Esq.	Helsby.
J. Hunt, Esq.	Kingsley.
T. Gleave, Esq.	Manley.
Mrs. H. Frodsham.	Moore.
S. Newall, Esq.	Norley.
W. Fryer, Esq.	Norton.
J. T. Cowap, Esq.	Preston Brook.
T. Deakin, Esq.	Stockton Heath.
E. G. White, Esq.	Stockton Heath.
R. E. Payton, Esq.	Stockton Heath.

Name.	*Parish Representative.*
J. Hewitt, Esq.	Stretton.
A. Cooke, Esq.	Sutton.
G. F. Hatton, Esq.	Walton.
P. McGuinness, Esq.	Walton.
J. C. Taylor, Esq.	Whitley.

OFFICERS.

Clerk—

Mr. Stanley Dennett, Frodsham.

Deputy Clerk—

Mr. J. A. Moorefield, Frodsham.

Engineer and Surveyor—

Mr. A. J. King, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.M. & Cy. E., Frodsham.

Solicitor—

Mr. W. E. Hough, Runcorn.

OFFICIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health—
and Medical Superintendent Dutton Isolation Hospital—

Jan. to July—Dr. E. N. Hillman Gray, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

July to Dec.—Dr. H. E. Bower, M.D., M.B., C.M.

Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors—

Budworth Area—

Mr. G. W. Lloyd, R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Appleton.
Tel. : Stockton Heath 180.

Frodsham Area—

Mr. D. Boothman, M.S.I.A., Frodsham.
Mr. C. Burgess, Northwich.

Matron Dutton Isolation Hospital—

Miss N. Minty. Tel. : Aston 201.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Runcorn Rural District Council.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

As Acting Medical Officer of Health for DR. E. N. HILLMAN GRAY now on Active Service, I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for the year 1940.

It is with deep regret that the death of my immediate predecessor, DR. H. E. BOWER, who held the office of Acting Medical Officer of Health from July to December 31st, 1940, has to be recorded.

Though there has been appointed a special Medical Officer for Air Raid Precautions work, yet there are so many matters that must of necessity dove-tail into and over-lap the work of the Public Health Department that much time has had to be given by the staff of this Department, particularly the Sanitary Inspectors, to this new aspect of work. Nevertheless all the usual routine work has been well maintained, and certain new additional legislation has had such attention as it was possible to give. All immediately essential matters however connected with Infectious Diseases, Food, Water, Scavenging, etc., have received the fullest attention possible, whilst Salvage Work has added considerably to the work of your officials.

POPULATION.

The population as given by the Registrar General shows an increase of 370, being now 32,790 against 32,420 in 1939.

The birth-rate and death rate are respectively 13·2 and 12·8, against 13·08 and 11·01 in 1939. The corresponding rates for England and Wales for 1940 are 14·6 and 14·3. Considering the extreme severity of the weather in the early part of the year, when there was a great increase in sickness the death rate can be considered satisfactory, the principle causes of death were Heart and Circulatory diseases 103, and Cancer 46 out of a total of 420 deaths. The Infant Mortality

rate is again very low, being only 37; for England and Wales it was 55. The Maternal Mortality was Nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Owing to the now compulsory notification of Whooping Cough and Measles (to meet War Emergency requirements) the total of notifications is naturally very much higher than in recent years, but the cases of Scarlet Fever are considerably less being 36 against 94 last year, whilst Diphtheria is down and this may mean that the effect of Immunisation is beginning to tell.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever has increased.

IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme for Immunisation against Diphtheria was started during the year and 325 children were fully treated under the Council Scheme, this includes all the children in the National Children's Home. The children of the Jewish Home and the Orphanage at Daresbury are immunised on admission. Intensification of this work is being carried on in the present year, 1941.

HOUSING.

Notwithstanding the exigencies of the War with the shortage of material, there has been an increase of 84 new houses (Two of which are Council houses). Details of such matters as Housing, Water Supplies, Drainage, Food Inspection, Infectious Diseases, etc., will be found in the appropriate special sections of this Report.

In preparing this Report dealing with a period prior to my taking up office, I am deeply indebted to the Clerk, Mr. Stanley Dennett and his Staff, the Surveyor, Mr. A. J. King, the Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. G. W. Lloyd and Mr. Boothman, (the latter joined the Forces in November) and especially to Mr. Thos. Worrall, Public Health Clerk for the great part he has taken in its preparation.

Since taking office on Jan 6th, 1941, I should also like to express my deep appreciation of the invaluable help and co-operation which all the Members of the Public Health Committee and other Councillors have given me.

I am,

Yours respectfully,

JAMES BENNETT, M R.C.S. & C., D.P.H. LOND.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 45,765.

Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population—end of 1940—32,790.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books—9,840.

Rateable Value (end of 1940)—£206,365.

Sum represented by penny rate—£808.

This year statistics are based on the Registrar-General's estimated population for the end of 1940.

Agriculture and Dairy Farming are the chief industries of the district ; other industries are Tanneries, Electric Cable, Electric Fittings and Steel Tube Works, Flour Mills, and Jam Works. Sand Quarrying is being carried on in the District, chiefly at Whitley and Moore.

Parts of the District are mainly Residential.

Unemployment.

Exact statistics are not available for this area, as the figures obtained by the local offices of the Ministry of Labour relate to the areas served by such offices, and these areas are not identical with the Runcorn Rural District. The incidence of unemployment however was low in the area.

Many of the inhabitants are employed in industrial areas outside the District. Others are employed on the Railways and as Porters in Canal Warehouses.

Orphanages and Sanatoria.

There are two Orphanages-one at Kingsley (350 children) and one at Daresbury (60 children) ; one Open-air School for Jewish children at Norley ; Two Sanatoria at Manley, each accommodating about 300 persons.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—13·2.
Legitimate	221	201	422	
Illegitimate	8	3	11	
Still Births.	3	15	18	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births—41·6.
Deaths.	226	194	420	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—12·8.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births. Runcorn R.D.C.	England & Wales.
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	0·52
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—	1·64
	—	—	——
Total	—	—	2·16

Infantile Mortality.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 live births	37
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	32·3
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	4·7
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	46
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	—

The causes of the highest mortality were: Heart and other Circulatory Diseases—103. Cancer—46.

Inquests were held in 22 cases of death; 7 of these cases belong to—Warrington U.D. 2, Northwich R.D. 1, Sale U.D. 1, Manchester U.D. 1, Runcorn U.D. 1, British Columbia, Canada 1.

For comparison the following figures are given :—

Year	Population	Birth rate	Death rate	Infantile Mortality rate
1916	28216	18·2	13·8	—
1917	29163	15·8	11·9	—
1918	27545	15·7	15·6	—
1919	28291	16·0	12·7	—
1920	28242	12·2	10·6	53
1921	29170	17·6	9·9	78
1922	29230	16·2	10·9	55
1923	29200	15·1	10·6	50
1924	29370	14·9	9·9	46
1925	29560	14·2	10·8	64
1926	29660	14·1	9·7	67
1927	29360	13·6	10·2	50
1928	30580	14·1	9·5	41
1929	30940	14·4	10·2	52
1930	30940	13·9	10·2	67
1931	32570	13·7	9·0	39
1932	32570	11·6	10·0	32
1933	32280	12·5	11·6	49
1934	32920	12·9	10·9	49
1935	34140	13·1	11·0	36
1936	30405	13·0	11·1	41
1937	31290	13·5	11·4	43
1938	31790	13·06	12·2	41
1939	32420	13·08	11·0	35
1940	32790	13·2	12·8	37

A table in the appendix gives the birth rate, death rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1940, and comparisons with England and Wales, London and the other great and smaller towns.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

I. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The names and qualifications are detailed at the beginning of the Report.

II. FACILITIES

(*a*) Laboratory Facilities.

(i) *Water*—Chemical and Bacteriological analyses are made by the County Analyst, Higher Broughton, Manchester.

(ii) *Food*—Analyses are made by the County Analyst under the Foods and Drugs Act.

(iii) *Milk*—Bacteriolgical examinations and guinea pig inoculations are done at the Runcorn Research Laboratory. 40 samples were submitted in 1940. All were negative.

(iv) Throat Swabs and other clinical material are examined at the Runcorn Research Laboratory, Evans Sons, Lesher & Webb, Ltd., for the diagnosis of infectious diseases, and in all cases of Surgical T.B. a sample of milk is taken and submitted for bacteriological examination; as already mentioned all samples submitted were found to be negative.

(*b*) Ambulance Facilities.

Two well-equipped ambulances are maintained by the Local Authority. They are garaged at Dutton, in the centre of the area, whence there is easy access to all parts. One is used for infectious cases, and the other for non-infectious and accident cases. Arrangements are in force with the Urban District for the co-ordination of ambulance services. The service is adequate and well managed.

The non-infectious ambulance dealt with 107 cases in 1940, compared with 89 in 1939.

It is desirable that the ambulance facilities provided should be widely known throughout the area, so that full use may be made of them.

(*c*) NURSING IN THE HOME.

(*i*) *General*—The whole of the area is served by 11 Local Nursing Associations. Each employs one trained nurse. These Associations work independently of the County and District Councils. Some of the District Nurses act also as midwives, and are supervised by the County Authority.

(*ii*) *Infectious Diseases*—No provision is made for the nursing of infectious diseases in the home.

(*d*) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

These are provided by the County Council as follows—

Maternity and Child Welfare—

Child Welfare Centres: Methodist Sunday School, Stockton Heath—Alternate Mondays, 2-30 p.m.

Methodist Sunday School, Grappenhall. Alternate Mondays, 2-30 p.m.

Trinity Church House, Frodsham—Alternate Tuesdays 2-30 p.m.

29, High Street, Runcorn—Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2-30 p.m.

Ante-natal Services: Ante-natal Clinic, 29 High Street, Runcorn—Thursday, 9-30 a.m. Any expectant mother may be examined twice by a doctor of her own choice at her own home.

Orthopaedic Clinics—

Methodist Sunday School, Stockton Heath—Tuesday and Friday, 2-30 p.m.

29, High Street, Runcorn—Tuesday and Friday, 11 a.m.

Tuberculosis—

Tuberculosis Dispensary, Memorial Hospital, Runcorn, Thursday 11 a.m.

School Medical Service—

Minor Ailments Clinic—Trinity Church House, Frodsham—Friday, 2 p.m.

29, High Street, Runcorn—Monday, Thursday, Friday, 2 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday 9-30 a.m.

(*e*) HOSPITALS.

Dutton Isolation Hospital—37 Beds— is under the control of the Runcorn Rural District Council, and is staffed by Dr. E. N. Hillman Gray as Medical Superintendent, Matron, Sister, Assistant Nurse, two Probationers, and one Ward-maid.

Extra nursing staff is engaged when necessary for special cases. Two Porters (one resident) are employed at the Hospital; they do ambulance work and disinfection, in addition to their hospital duties.

Provision is made for the employment of a Surgical Specialist for any case requiring his advice and skill.

It has been arranged, during the period of the war, that all cases from the Runcorn Urban District will be admitted.

Adequate Air Raid Shelters are provided.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of cases from other areas of the County in accordance with the scheme for co-ordination of hospital accommodation throughout the County.

Warrington Corporation Small Pox Hospital at Sankey—The right to send Small Pox Patients to this Hospital has been reserved by the Council and an annual subsidy is paid to the Warrington Corporation for this purpose.

Dutton Institution—64 Beds. Controlled by Public Assistance Committee of the County. This Infirmary is classified for admission of chronic sick cases. Cases requiring special treatment are transferred to Clatterbridge General Hospital (Wirral) and elswhere.

Voluntary Hospitals receiving patients from this area—

Manchester Royal Infirmary.
Chester Royal Infirmary.
Liverpool Royal Infirmary.
Liverpool Southern Hospital.
Liverpool Northern Hospital.
Liverpool Ear and Throat Hospital.
Victoria Memorial Hospital, Runcorn.
Warrington Infirmary.
Northwich Infirmary.
Altrincham General Hospital.
Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

There are two private Maternity Homes in the area, one at Frodsham and one at Grappenhall.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1 (*a*) *Water*—The Council has acquired the use of one of the Warringtan Corporation bore-holes at Foxhill, Alvanley, as an emergency standby against interruption to their existing supplies through enemy action. Certain work was carried out by the Council to enable water to be extracted from this bore-hole including the construction of a Pump-house and electricty Generating Station, together with a 7in. cast iron rising main approximately 630 yards in length. The cost of these works together with machinery was about £3632 and of this sum the Ministry made a contribution of £1816.

This standby plant is capable of serving the Parishes of Frodsham, Helsby, Alvanley, Kingsley. Manley and Norley.

In connection with the Frodsham, Helsby and District Water Supply Scheme which was commenced towards the end of end 1937, the final lengths were laid during the year, consisting :—

4 in. diameter 1275 yards lin.
5 in. diameter 1300 yards lin.
6 in. diameter 175 yards lin.

The question of sterilization of water supplies was considered by the Council and orders were placed for the necessary apparatus.

45 samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination, as follows—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Borderline	Total
Budworth Area :	20	1	1	22
Frodsham Area :	16	7	—	23
	—	—	—	—
	36	8	1	45

It has been a recommendation to the Council that where possible a pure main water supply should be provided; in other cases owners have been requested to improve their supply, bringing their wells up to standard in every way, or failing this, sinking fresh wells.

In all cases where water is reported by the County Analyst to be unfit, occupiers of the premises are requested to boil the water for drinking, dietetic and dairy purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new Sewers were constructed during 1940.

Consideration of the schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for those parishes at present in need of them has of necessity been interrupted by the large amount of work brought about by the war.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council's sewage disposal works at Helsby and at Acton Grange have continued to give satisfactory results.

A Septic Tank was constructed to deal with the sewage from a group of houses at Rocksavage, Sutton, since when a marked improvement has occurred in the disposal of this sewage.

CESSPOOL AND SEPTIC TANKS (OLD TYPE).

These should not be installed, but where sewers are not practicable, a tank plus a suitable filter is recommended.

2. *Rivers and Streams. Tannery Effluent—*

With regard to the effluents from the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Cliffe Lane Tannery, and the Grappenhall Tanning Co., both of these Companies have constructed certain works with the object of rendering the effluent of such a nature which would be acceptable by this Council to be treated at the Sewage Works.

Neither of the Works have yet however been completed, and the nuisance still exists.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*—Conversion to water closets from pail closets—Grappenhall, 29 ; Stretton, 2—31.

(II) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Only one Parish—Norton—has no refuse disposal system in operation at present.

Collection work is carried out by three Contractors, one in Budworth District, and two in Frodsham District.

Disposal is by semi-controlled tipping at eleven tips, five in Budworth District, and six in Frodsham District.

Two tip attendants are engaged by the Council, each man working full time, at the main depots of each area. Particulars of the work are given below.

	Budworth District	*Frodsham District*
Parishes	11	11
Houses (Ashbin Refuse)	5821	3667
Pail Closets	340	266
Pit Closets	—	40
Cost of Collection per year	£2739	£1803

Total cost of collection, 22 Parishes £4542 per year.

Cost of disposal includes Tip Men's wages, rents, soiling and carting work at the 11 tips: £660 per year approx.

Disposal costs vary annually according to amount of soiling needed, repairs to roads, fencing, etc.

The above figures do not include renewal costs of Bins and Pails.

Additional to the above is a trade refuse removal and disposal system operating under Section 73, Public Health Act, 1936, in Grappenhall and Stockton Heath, serving 48 trade premises, the cost of collection £65 per year, being paid by the Tradesmen.

(III) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Details of Inspections by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1940.

Nature of Inspection.	No. of Inspections.	Informal notices.	Statutory notices.
Houses (Housing Acts)	.....	.....	.....
,, (Public Health Acts)	38	24	.....
,, (Number of Inmates)	36	.....	.....
Schools	24	2	.....
Camping Grounds	.....	.....	.....
Water Supplies (Samples)	45	11	6
,, (other Inspections)	22	21	.....
Defective Roofs, Gutters, etc.	24	23	2
Ashplaces, Earth Closets	13	10	.....
Drains, Sanitary Fittings	74	55	11
Cesspools	15	15	1
Ditches—Brooks	23	15	.....
Sewer matters	11	11	.....
Re drains, connections to sewers	20	13	.....
Refuse, Collection and Disposal	533	104	.....
Salvage	134	.....	.....
Streets, Yards, Passages	71	5	.....
Foul accumulations	9	9	1
Re Vermin (Rats, Bugs, etc.)	7	3	.....
Slaughter Houses	.....	.....	.....
Piggeries	34	.....	.....
Offensive Trades	60	4	.....
Dairy Farms	237	3	.....
Milk Retailers	68	.....	.....
Milk Tests and Inquiries	26	1	.....
Factories and Workshops	69	2	.....
Shops and Food Stores	132	3	.....
Meat Inspection Visits	42	5	.....
Canal Boats	22	.....	.....
Zymotic Inquiries	361	.....	.....
Visits to Contacts and Schools	33	.....	.....
Mortuaries	68	.....	.....
Miscellaneous	47	23	.....
War Matters (Shelters)	404	.....	.....
,, ,, (other items)	153	.....	.....
Totals	2855	362	21

The numerous re-visits and interviews following up Notices, etc., are not included above.

Matters in hand for further action in 1941

Water 4 General 15

Numbers on the various Registers end of 1940.

Milk Producers	384	(231 of which are Accredited and 6 T.T.)
Milk Purveyors	102	
Factories	124	(48 of which use Mechanical Power)
Slaughter Houses	8	
Slaughtermen	34	
Shops	290	(170 of which are Food Stores)
Petrol Stores	83	
Schools	33	
Camping Grounds	23	
Knacker Yard	1	
Game Dealers	1	
Ice Cream Makers	7	
Ice Cream Sellers	14	
Meats, Fried Fish, etc.	39	
Piggeries	36	

(iv) *Shops*—132 inspections have been made under the Shops Act, 1934, F. & D. Act, 1938, and for other purposes, and 3 informal notices complied with.

(v) *Camping Sites*—

1. Number of sites in the area which were used for Camping purposes 23
2. Number of Camping Sites in respect of which Licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 20
3. Estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time, during the summer season 1940 250

(vi) *Smoke Abatement*-The Council remains a constituent authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and makes a contribution to its funds for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

(vii) *Swimming Baths and Pools*—There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

(viii) *Eradication of bed bugs*—

1. No. of (a) Council houses infested 0, disinfested 0.
   ,, (b) Other houses ,, 0, ,, 0.

(ix) *Mortuaries*—The Mortuaries controlled by the Council at Frodsham and Stockton Heath are in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

(x) *Schools*—The sanitary condition and water supply of most of the Schools are satisfactory. In some Schools improvements in the closet accommodation is desirable.

No Schools were closed, due to Infectious Disease, during the year 1940.

FACTORIES.

Home Office Form 572.

Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power.....	53	Nil	Nil
Factories without Mechanical Power.....	95	Nil	Nil
Other Premises under the Act (including works of Building and Engineering Construction but not including out-workers pre-premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	148	Nil	Nil

2. Defects found.

PARTICULARS. (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS. Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of cleanliness (S 1)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Overcrowding (S.2.)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unreasonable Temp're (S.3.)...	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inadequate Ventilation (S 4.)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.).....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).				
Insufficient.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	.....	.....
Not separate for sexes	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other offences (not including offences relating to home work or offences under the sections mentioned in the Schedule to Ministry of Health)	2	2	.....	.....
(Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers order, 1921, and re-enacted in the third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	4	4	Nil	Nil

Outwork in unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

There is nothing to report under this section in this Area.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

New Houses in 1940.

Number of new houses erected by Local Authority	2
Number of new houses erected by other bodies and persons	82
Total	84

Parishes	New Houses erected 1940 Total per Parish Private	Local Authority	No. of inhabited houses in Rural District 31st Dec. 1940.
Alvanley	1	.....	82
Antrobus	3	.....	206
Appleton	11	.....	747
Aston	2	.....	60
Budworth (Great)	.....	.....	106
Daresbury	1	.....	72
Dutton	.....	.....	88
Frodsham	24	.....	1387
Grappenhall	15	.....	1701
Halton	1	.....	411
Hatton	.....	.....	92
Helsby	2	.....	709
Kingsley	2	.....	341
Manley	1	.....	132
Moore	.....	.....	155
Norley	1	.....	257
Norton	.....	.....	41
Preston Brook	.....	.....	112
Stockton Heath	11	.....	2166
Stretton	.....	.....	129
Sutton	2	2	183
Walton	3	.....	504
Whitley	2	.....	159
Totals	82	2	9840

Housing Inspection.—Housing Act, 1936.

No Routine Inspections have been made during the year. This policy has been adopted due to present conditions, *i.e.* lack of labour and materials, and the possible shortage of dwellings due to enemy action; informal action has however been taken with good results in many cases with regard to Sanitary Defects.

4. *Housing Act*, 1936—*Part IV. Overcrowding.*

		1938	1939	1940
(*a*)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	30	23	21
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	30	23	21
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	202	151½	132
(*b*)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	9	4	0
(*e*)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	37	11	3
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	236	82	24½
(*d*)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil	Nil	Nil

This analysis shows that there are 21 houses overcrowded at the end of the year, the number of persons concerned in such houses being 132.

Of the 3 cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2 were where sons and daughters had left home, and 1 through death in family. 16 houses are licensed for slight temporary overcrowding at end of 1940.

New Houses Erected—

	By Local Authority	By other persons	Total
1931	12	142	154
1932	14	324	338
1933	6	401	407
1934	Nil	622	622
1935	12	435	447
1936	8	474	482
1937	28	599	627
1938	28	399	427
1939	6	222	228
1940	2	82	84

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) *Milk Supply*—	Budworth Area	Frodsham Area	Total
No. of Producers registered	151	233	384
No. of Retail Dairymen registered	40	62	102
No. of Producers of Accredited Milk	87	144	231
No. of Producers of T.T. Milk	2	4	6
No. of Cowsheds "improved" in 1940	3	8	11
No. of Samples examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli	23	2	25
No of these Samples found to contain Tubercle Bacilli.....	—	—	—
No. of Adverse Reports from outside Authorities	—	—	—

More than half the producers registered in the area are producers of accredited milk.

Periodical inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

No. of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	1
No. of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	6
No. of persons licensed to sell Accredited Milk	231
No. of persons licensed to bottle and sell Accredited Milk	1
No. of Pasteurisers' Licences	0

(*b*) *Meat and other Foods*—

MEAT—The Sanitary Inspectors act as Meat Inspectors.

OTHER FOODS—The Sanitary conditions of Bake-houses and other places where food is prepared or exposed for sale are good.

No Meat Marking Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in this district.

Owing to the War no Slaughter Houses were used during the year 1940; all the animals being slaughtered in the adjoining Urban District of Runcorn

(*c*) *Adulteration, etc.*—I am indebted to Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, for the following Report of the work of his Department in the Runcorn Rural District during 1940.

Samples Obtained During Year Ended 31st December, 1940.

Sample	No. Obtained	Adulterated or Not up to Standard
Camphorated Oil	1	.....
Caster Oil	2	.....
Cheese—Cheshire	2	.....
Cod Liver Oil	1	.....
Coffee	1	.....
Cream—Tinned	1	.....
Cream	1	.....
Dried Apricots	1	.....
Dried Fruit	1	.....
Epson Salts	1	.....
Fish Paste	1	.....
Ginger—Ground	1	.....
Glycerine	3	.....
Iodised Throat Tablets	1	...
Milk	27	5
Milk—Condensed	1	...
Olive Oil	1	.....
Pepper	1	.....
Salad Oil	1	.....
Seidlitz Powder	1	.....
Sauce	1	.....
	—	—
Total	51	5

Of the five Milks reported as not up to standard, two were deficient in Non-fatty Solids to the extent of 1·2% and 3% respectively but were certified as abnormal and therefore *genuine.*

Another Sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 16·3% and was also 4% deficient in Non-fatty Solids. In this case the seller was cautioned by letter.

The two remaining samples were far more serious. Briefly, a sample taken from a Retailer in the Urban District of Runcorn was found to be adulterated with water, accordingly a sample was obtained the next day from each of two churns being supplied to this Retailer by a Producer in the Rural District. Each churn was found to contain added water and the Producer was subsequently prosecuted and had to pay a total of £3 2s. 0d. in fines and costs.

(*d*) *Shell Fish* (*Molluscan*)—There are no shell fish beds or layings in the district.

Shell Fish are not marketed regularly anywhere in the district.

Mussels and shrimps are sold in the area by hawkers from Runcorn. The mussels are obtained from the Dee estuary at Neston and Parkgate. The shrimps are obtained from the Mersey estuary.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following is a summary of notifiable infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, during the year 1940.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths in Hospital.
Meningismus	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever....	36	16	—
Diphtheria	26	22	—
Measles	302	4	—
Whooping Cough	142	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia....	2	—	—
Pneumonia	39	2	—
Erysipelas	4	1	—
Rubella	1	1	—
Influenza	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	6	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	15	12	1
C.S.M. (Contact) ...	1	1	—
Acute Tonsilitis ...	4	4	—
T.B. Meningitis	1	1	1
Anthrax	1	1	—
Vincents Angina	1	1	—
Subarachnoid Hæmorrhage	1	1	—
Total	584	69	2

ISOLATION HOSPITAL REPORT.

	Runcorn Urban and Rural	Rural	Urban
No. of Patients in Hospital, 1st January, 1940	5	3	2
,, admitted during 1940	95	61	34
,, discharged during 1940	89	58	31
,, died in Hospital during 1940	3	1	2
,, in Hospital, 31st December, 1940	8	5	3
No. of Scarlet Fever cases admitted during 1940	24	16	8
,, Diphtheria cases ,, ,,	44	22	22
,, Erysipelas cases ,, ,,	2	1	1
,, C,S.M. cases ,, ,,	7	5	2
,, Acute Follicular Tonsilitis cases ,,	5	4	1
,, Measles cases ,, ,,	4	4	—
,, Rubella cases ,, ,,	1	1	—
,, T B. Meningitis cases ,, ,,	1	1	—
,, Vincents Angina cases ,,	1	1	—
,, Pneumonia cases ,, ,,	2	2	—
,, Influenza cases ,, ,,	1	1	—
,, Subarachnoid Hæmorrhage ,,	1	1	—
,, Meningismus cases ,, ,,	1	1	—
,, Contact C.S.M. cases ,, ,,	1	1	—
Average length of stay in days—25 days			

An analysis of total notified cases of Infectious Diseases is given as follows :

	under 1 yr.	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	Total
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	3	2	1	15	9	3	1	2	.....	.....	36
Diphtheria	.....	.....	1	2	1	6	3	5	5	2	1	.....	26
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	2
Pneumonia	.....	.....	1	2	.....	1	2	1	8	6	12	6	39
Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	.....	4
Measles	5	4	22	23	23	144	17	25	32	5	2	.....	302
Rubella	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Whooping Cough	9	13	14	20	19	48	14	1	3	1	.....	.....	142
C.S. Meningitis	1	1	.....	.....	1	3	.....	3	2	4	.....	.....	15
,, ,, (Contact)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Acute Tonsilitis	.....	.....	1	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	4
T.B. Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Subarachnoid Hæmorr-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Influenza [hage	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	6
Vincents Angina	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Anthrax	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Meningismus	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

TOTAL DEATHS.

RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT.

	CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females
	ALL CAUSES	226	194
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—
2	Measles	—	2
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—
6	Influenza	7	6
7	Encephalitis lethargica	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	2	1
9	Tuberculosis respiratory system	8	8
10	Other tuberculous diseases	2	2
11	Syphilis	1	—
12	General paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	28	18
14	Diabetes	1	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage	19	30
16	Heart disease	47	39
17	Aneurysm	—	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	11	6
19	Bronchitis	19	18
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	9	7
21	Other respiratory diseases	4	2
22	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	5	—
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	—	—

		Males	Females
24	Appendicitis	1	1
25	Cirrhosis of liver	—	—
26	Other diseases of liver	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	2	4
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	12	13
29	Puerperal sepsis	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes	—	1
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	9	4
32	Senility	—	—
33	Suicide	1	1
34	Other violence	16	8
35	All other causes	22	21

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1940 — England and Wales. London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	Runcorn Rural District	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
BIRTHS—					
Live	13·2	14·6	16·0	15·7	13·7
Still	0·55	0·55	0·64	0 55	0·44
DEATHS—					
All Causes	12·8	14·3	15·8	12·8	17·8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	0 00	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·00
Diphtheria	0·00	0·06	0·07	0·05	0·01
Influenza	0·39	0 32	0·29	0·30	0·18
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·06	0·02	0 02	0·02	0·01
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	37	55	61	54	50
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age	0·00	4·6	5·9	4·4	5·8
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0·00				
Others	2·36				
Total	2 36				
	A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths				
	Rates per 1000 Civilian Population.				
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Enteric	0·00	0·07	0·06	0·10	0·06
Cerebro Spinal Fever		0·32	0·33	0·29	0·28
Scarlet Fever	1·09	1·63	1 53	1·57	0·82
Whooping Cough		1·34	1·29	1·35	0·22
Diphtheria	0·79	1·16	1·29	1·21	0·61
Erysipelas	0·12	0 33	0·36	0·30	0·35
Small Pox	0·00	0·00	—	—	—
Measles		10·24	9·23	9·99	1·78
Pneumonia	1·19	1·20	1·37	1·00	0·87
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
MATERNAL MORTALITY— (Excluding Abortion)					
Puerperal Infection	0·00	0·52	Not	availab	le
Others	2·22	1·64			
Total	2·22	2·16			
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Puerperal Fever / Puerperal Pyrexia	4·44	11·96	13·90	9·73	3·34 / 13·30 Including Puerperal Fever

Hospital Accommodation—

Special arrangements have been made to accommodate all cases from the Urban District for the duration of the war. Cases from other areas of the County are received by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health provided there is a reserve of beds.

It is considered desirable to keep a reserve of beds to serve this area and the two orphanages and other resident institutions which lie within its boundaries.

Cases of Measles are occasionally admitted to Hospital where home conditions require it.

Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria—

The Diphtheria Immunising Agent A.P.T. is supplied free by the Council to Medical Practitioners and is obtainable from The Council Offices, Castle Park, Frodsham. The Public Assistance Committee of the County Council have made arrangements for immunisation of all children admitted to the Institutions controlled by them. This is carried out at the Dutton Institution in this area.

3. *Cancer.*—There were 46 deaths from Cancer. 28 males and 18 females.

Year	Deaths. from Cancer.	Year	Deaths. from Cancer
1920	27	1931	48
1921	30	1932	47
1922	31	1933	55
1923	44	1934	38
1924	53	1935	56
1925	38	1936	56
1926	35	1937	49
1927	36	1938	49
1928	45	1939	34
1929	42	1940	46
1930	48		

Radium treatment can be given at the Myrtle Street Hospital, Liverpool. Practitioners can obtain forms for the treatment of patients from the Medical Officer of Health, Sankey Street, Warrington. This district, as a contributory area within the S.W. Lancashire, Cheshire and N. Wales branch of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, is entitled to this privilege for its residents. As this district is situated mid-way between Liverpool and Manchester, it would be advantageous if equal facilities for Cancer treatment were provided for its residents at either centre.

4. (*a*) *Prevention of Blindness.*—No action taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(*b*) *Tuberculosis*—

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172—No action taken.

5. **TUBERCULOSIS.**

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15—25	4	3	—	—	1	4	—	—
25—35	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
45—55	1	2	—	—	3	2	1	—
55—65	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	10	8	2	3	8	9	1	—

Chester County Council Laboratory—Sputum examinations :

1938—Positive	15	Negative 84	Total 99
1939— ,,	13	,, 71	,, 84
1940— ,,	10	,, 64	,, 74

Statement showing number of Tuberculosis Patients on the Register of the Runcorn Rural Area on 31st December, 1940.

Year	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary			Total all Forms	Population	No. per 1000 of Population
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total			
1938	47	35	82	33	36	69	151	31,290	4·82
1939	52	40	92	32	38	70	162	32,420	5·0
1940	52	38	90	31	37	68	158	32,790	4·82

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CANAL BOATS INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with Section 249 (3), Puplic Health Act, 1936, I beg to report as follows :

Twenty-one Boats were inspected during the year 1940 at the Stockton Heath, Preston Brook, and Norton Quays.

The Boats inspected were all in good order, and there were no contraventions. No Infectious Diseases were reported on the Boats whilst in our area.

The number of persons occupying the Boats inspected were : 28 Males, 16 Females, 11 Children. Total, nett Adults, 50 occupying. No. of Adults allowed by Registration Certificate, 64.

GEO. W. LLOYD,

Canal Boats Inspector.